

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-12 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been added. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3, 7, and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting Applicants' drawings. However, Applicants have not received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review PTO-948 indicating whether or not the formal drawings have been approved by the Draftsperson. Since the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner, Applicants assume that no further action is necessary. Confirmation thereof in the next Office Action is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ogata et al., JP 10325398A. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 6 recite a combination of elements including "a connection portion between the blades and the hub has an area-reduced form in order to reduce a rigidity of the connection portion". Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in claims 1 and 6 is not disclosed or suggested by Ogata.

Ogata discloses an axial flow fan having a plurality of blades 103 fixed to the outer periphery of a hub 2 and fixed to the shaft 105 (see FIG. 1; Solution

in the English abstract). In particular, Ogata teaches the hub 2 has several circular openings 4 at equal intervals in the circumferential direction of the outer periphery of the hub 2; when the fan 1 rotates, the air flow will produce a pressure difference between the inside and the outside of the hub 2, whereby the air in the hub 2 flows from the openings 4 (see FIG. 1.; Solution in the English abstract; paragraph [0016] of the Japanese specification).

However, Ogata fails to teach “a connection portion between the blades and the hub has an area-reduced form in order to reduce a rigidity of the connection portion” as recited in claims 1 and 6. Although Ogata teaches openings 4 are formed at equal intervals in the circumferential direction of the outer periphery of the hub 2, Ogata does not teach or suggest that the openings 4 are formed at the connection portion between the blades 103 and the hub 2. Since the openings 4 are formed in the hub 2 and no openings are formed on the blades 103, if the openings 4 were formed at the connection portion between the blades 103 and the hub 2, the air would be blocked by the blades 103, which have no openings corresponding to openings 4 and thus cannot let the air flow therethrough. This would destroy the primary purpose of Ogata, *i.e.*, making the air in the hub 2 flow through the openings 4.

Since Ogata fails to teach each and every recitation of independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated by Ogata.

In addition, claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are therefore allowable

based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 6, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 clearly define the present invention over the Ogata reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ogata in view of Jung et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,584,799. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

As mentioned above, Ogata fails to teach each and every recitation of independent claims 1 and 6.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Jung, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings of the location of the fan. This reference also fails to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, this reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Ogata.

Accordingly, neither Ogata nor Jung individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Applicants

respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 6 clearly define over the references relied on by the Examiner.

In addition, claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 6, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 11 and 12 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 depend directly from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 6, which are believed to be allowable.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 11 and 12 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

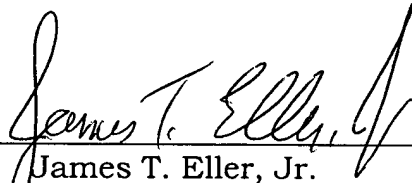
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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